

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 IO-13 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 OES-07 NRC-05 /117 W  
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R 281724Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5536  
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3280

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PARM, MNUC, ENRG, TECH, AR  
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE PRESS COMMENTS ON USSR DECISION TO SIGN  
TLATELOLCO

1. THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY LEONID BREZHNEV AT THE 18TH SOVIET PARTY CONGRESS THAT THE USSR WILL SIGN PROTOCOL II OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO RECEIVED WIDE NEWSPAPER COVERAGE AND COMMENT IN ARGENTINA. HOWEVER, THERE HAS NOT BEEN ANY OFFICIAL RESPONSE FROM GOA MFA (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS). OR CNEA (NATIONAL COMMISSION OF ATOMIC ENERGY) SOURCES. (SINCE CASTRO MADERO IS OUT OF THE COUNTRY UNTIL NEXT WEEK, THERE MOST LIKELY WILL NOT BE ANY COMMENT FROM CNEA UNTIL THAT TIME.)

2. MOST OF THE COMMENTARY LINKED THE RUSSIAN DECISION WITH DISCUSSIONS HELD IN MOSCOW RECENTLY WITH THE CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER. THE PRESS STORIES INDICATED THAT BREZHNEV HAD MENTIONED THE USSR SOLIDARITY WITH CUBA AND THE US POSITION IN GUANTANAMO BAY, AS WELL AS US NUCLEAR SUBMARINES IN PUERTO RICO, AS THE REASONS FOR THEIR RELUCTANCE TO SIGN THE TREATY. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS,  
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HE FURTHER STATED THE USSR WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO REDUCE WORLD NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND IS WORKING CLOSELY WITH THE US ON ARMS CONTROL AND REDUCTION, AS WELL AS THE DECISIONS TO CANCEL PLANS FOR THE NEUTRON BOMB BY BOTH COUNTRIES. BREZHNEV INDICATED THAT THE SIGNING OF TLATELOLCO WAS THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP IN THIS PROCESS.

3. MOST ARGENTINE EDITORIAL COMMENTARY INDICATED THAT LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS NOW FEEL THAT IF THE USSR DOES FOLLOW THROUGH AND SIGN AND RATIFY PROTOCOL II, CUBA HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO SIGN AND RATIFY TLATELOLCO AND WILL PERHAPS RECEIVE SOME PRESSURE FROM MOSCOW TO DO SO. THIS SHOULD ALSO IMPROVE USSR RELATIONS WITH MANY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES.

4. ALSO MENTIONED IN PRESS EDITORIALS WAS THAT ARTICLE 18 OF THE TLATELOLCO TREATY DOES NOT PROHIBIT PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS WHICH WOULD ALSO IMPLY KNOWING THE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE FABRICATION OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION DEVICE. MOST LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES AGREE THAT ARTICLE 18 CARRIES THE CONNOTATION THAT THE TREATY DOES NOT IMPEDE PEACEFUL EXPLOSIONS. HOWEVER, THE ADVANCED NUCLEAR COUNTRIES DO NOT RECOGNIZE THIS PART OF THE TREATY SINCE THEY BELIEVE THE FABRICATION OF ANY NUCLEAR DEVICE COULD LEAD TO A WEAPONS PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, THE SITUATION IS BECOMING EVEN MORE COMPLICATED NOW WITH THE STRICT SYSTEM OF NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS AND INSPECTIONS IMPOSED ON LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BY THE ADVANCED NUCLEAR COUNTRIES, AND THE FACT THAT AFTER RATIFICATION OF TLATELOLCO, A COUNTRY MUST ACCEPT FULL SCOPE SAFEGUARDS WITH IAEA WITHIN 18 MONTHS. THIS COULD PRESENT A PROBLEM FOR SOME OF THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. (PRESS COMMENTS DID NOT MENTION PARTICULAR COUNTRIES NOR WAS THERE ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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MENTION THAT US HAS NOT YET RATIFIED PROTOCOL I OF TLATELOLCO NOR OF THE FRENCH NOT HAVING SIGNED OR RATIFIED PROTOCOL I.)

6. COMMENTS: CNEA OFFICIALS TOLD SCICOUNS UNOFFICIALLY THAT THE USSR'S MOVE TOWARD RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOL II, THE US COMMITMENT TO RATIFY PROTOCOL I, AND THE FACT THAT CUBA WILL PROBABLY ENTER INTO THE TREATY, SHOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR ARGENTINA TO RATIFY TLATELOLCO AT THE SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS FOR ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE TREATY. PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS ARE ANOTHER PROBLEM THAT IS STILL BEING DEBATED WITHIN GOA CIRCLES WITHOUT YET REACHING ANY CONCLUSIONS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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